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CHARLES THOMAS JACKSON.

Charles Thomas Jackson was born at Plymouth, Mass., June 21, 1805. He studied medicine at the Medical School of Harvard University, and in 1829 received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Soon after he visited Europe to complete his studies, and at Paris formed the acquaintance of men eminent in science, and, among others, of the celebrated geologist, Elie de Beaumont, who exerted a marked influence on his subsequent career. Before completing his course at the Medical School, he had already manifested a strong interest in geology, mineralogy, and chemistry; and, in company with his friend, Mr. Francis Alger, had explored a considerable portion of Nova Scotia. The special interests and aptitudes thus manifested drew him away from the practice of medicine, and led him to devote himself to scientific study, and to the solution of problems in practical science. He was one of the first in this country to establish a chemical laboratory for students, as well as for commercial work. Several of Doctor Jackson's early students became subsequently highly distinguished; and the numerous practical problems which were successfully solved in his laboratory gave to him a wide reputation as an expert in geology and chemistry.

Doctor Jackson was elected a Fellow of this Academy in 1837. He had previously published in our Memoirs (New Series, Vol. I.), in connection with Mr. Francis Alger, an extended paper upon the "Mineralogy and Geology of Nova Scotia;" and he subsequently contributed to our "Proceedings," "Remarks upon a large Vein of Phosphate of Lime, found at Hurdstown, New Jersey;" "Analyses of Water;" "Analysis of Bornite for Georgia;" "Results of an Examination of the Frozen Well at Brandon, Vermont;" "Analysis of Meteoric Iron from Dacotah."

Of the Natural History Society of Boston, Doctor Jackson was one of the earliest and most active members. He held several of its offices, and was for many years one of its Vice-Presidents. To this society he made very frequent communications; and in its "Proceedings," from their first publication in 1841 until he became enfeebled by illness, there may be found constantly recurring notices of the part taken by him in the discussions at its meetings. His contributions to the "American Journal of Science" were likewise numerous; and among the papers which occur in one or the other of these publications may be mentioned, Analyses of the Mineral Waters of the

Azores; Remarks on the Geology of Maine; Chemical Analysis of Meteoric Iron from Claiborne, Alabama; Bitumenization of Peat, and its Conversion into Coal; An Account of the Catilinite, or Indian Pipe Quarry; The Lava of the Volcano of Kilauea in Hawaii, and its Chemical Composition; Remarks upon Drift, and upon the Organic Matters of Soils; The Concrinite, Nepheline, and Zircon of Litchfield, Maine; The Ores of Lake Superior; The Discovery of Tellurium in Virginia; Analyses and Description of the Vermiculite of Millbury, Mass.; The Lake Superior Copper Region; The Asphaltic Coal of New Brunswick; The Discovery of Fossil Fish in the Coal Formation of New Brunswick.

In the volume of the "Proceedings of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists" may be found a description by Doctor Jackson of the veins of tin ore of Jackson, New Hampshire, and remarks upon the zinc, copper, and lead ores of same State. In the subsequent volumes of the American Association for the Advancement of Science he published: Observations on a Mirage seen at Lake Superior; Remarks on the Geology, Mineralogy, and Mines of Keneewaw Point; On Ancient Pot-holes in Rocks; Description and Analyses of Allanite from Franklin, New Jersey; Description of Bismuthic Tellurium from Virginia; Artificial Minerals from an Iron Furnace of Pennsylvania.

Doctor Jackson published also in the "American Journal of Agriculture," in the "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," and in the "Comptes Rendus of Paris." We are unable to make the catalogue complete; but the titles we have quoted are sufficient to give an idea of the great extent and variety of the work which is shown even by his shorter papers. But all this was subordinate to the extensive and important Geological Surveys, on which he was early employed, and of which he was one of the pioneers in this country.

The first report of our late associate on the "Geology of the State of Maine" appeared in 1837, and was followed by the second in 1838, and the third in 1839. Additional reports upon the "Public Lands of Maine" were likewise published in the two former years. In 1840 his final report on the "Geology of Rhode Island" was issued. In 1841 his first report on the "Geology of New Hampshire" was printed, followed by a second report in 1842; and his final report on the geology of that State was published in a quarto volume in 1844. Lastly, in 1849, Doctor Jackson's report on the "Mineral Lands of the United States in Michigan" appeared at Washington in an octavo volume with maps. It will be noticed that the geological work, whose results are embodied in these reports, was all finished before 1849; and it is obvious, therefore, that it ought not to be judged by the standard of a more advanced science. It was a most important work for the time, and greatly helped to develop the mineral resources of the country.

This necessarily imperfect account of Doctor Jackson's scientific work forms a most worthy record: and we would that our notice of his life might end here; for the unfortunate controversy which overshadowed his later years brought only sorrow and disappointment to him, and diverted attention from the valuable services he had rendered to industrial science. The discovery of anæsthesia, like the discovery of printing, was too great a gift for any one man to confer on his race. That Doctor Jackson suggested the use of ether for producing insensibility to pain, and that this suggestion was based on previous experience, seems unquestionable. But it was not a suggestion, however fruitful; not an unimproved experience, however important; not a rash experiment, though called courageous when successful: but the careful and cautious investigation of the conditions of success and the limits of safety, that constituted the great gift for which mankind should be grateful. The monument erected on the Public Garden in Boston, in honor of the discovery of anæsthesia, by blazoning no man's name, implicitly records the verdict in which most thinking men acquiesce; and the one great lesson which the "Ether Controversy" should teach is that for such great gifts, not to man, but to God, belongs all the glory.

It is, however, a painful fact that Doctor Jackson honestly believed himself entitled to the whole honor of the discovery of anæsthesia, and that his later years were embittered by what he regarded as the injustice and ingratitude of his contemporaries. His unsuccessful efforts to obtain a recognition of his claims; the engrossment of mind, anxiety, suffering, and disappointment, occasioned by the controversy, — led finally to insanity, which separated him from his family and friends several years ago; and when, on the 29th of August last, the news came that the troubled spirit was at length at rest, the survivors of those friends whom his bright intellect had drawn around him in his early manhood felt that a long night of mourning had passed.